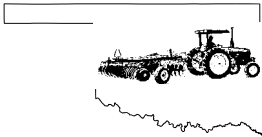


OKLAHOMA CROP-WEATHER

May 5, 2003



Oklahoma
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

A combined contribution with
-Cooperative Extension Service
-USDA Farm Service Agency
-The Oklahoma Mesonet

Warm and Dry Conditions Advance Crop Progress

May 4 - A relatively warm and dry week allowed farmers to make progress with fieldwork activities. Only small amounts of rainfall were recorded across Oklahoma. The Southeast, Northeast, and East Central received the most moisture but even those amounts were less than ½ inch. These rains were short lived due to the high winds and warm temperatures which reduced soil moisture supplies. Additional rainfall is needed to further aid the development of the wheat crop, particularly in the Southwest and Panhandle districts. Rain is also needed to continue progress with row crops. Moisture supplies for both topsoil and subsoil dropped from last week and were rated mostly adequate to short. Farmers had 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork during the week.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	15	36	48	1
Last Week	5	26	68	1
Last Year	14	20	62	4

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	14	34	52	0
Last Week	11	27	61	1
Last Year	27	24	47	2

Small Grains: Wheat was rated in mostly good to fair condition. Most areas need additional rains to enable proper growth and maturity for the wheat crop. Wheat heading advanced to 91 percent compared to the 85 percent last year and the 5-year average of 74 percent. Wheat entered the soft dough stage of development at 13 percent, slightly ahead of the 5-year average of 10 percent. Oats were rated in good to fair condition with 38 percent of the crop headed. Crop insect activity was reported as none to light across the State.

SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending May 4, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Wheat					
This Week	3	8	24	47	18
Last Week	3	7	24	49	17
Last Year	22	14	29	31	4
Rye					
This Week	2	8	30	53	7
Oats					
This Week	2	9	37	48	4

Row Crops: Producers continued preparing row crop seedbeds and planting summer crops. Cotton seedbed preparation was 88 percent complete, slightly ahead of normal. At week's end, corn seedbeds were 93 percent prepared, while 48 percent of the sorghum seedbeds had

been prepared. Peanuts and soybeans seedbeds were 79 and 65 percent prepared, respectively. Corn producers made progress and planted an additional 13 percent of the crop during the week, with 58 percent planted by week's end. Peanut and cotton planting were at 25 and 15 percent planted, respectively, both ahead of normal. Sorghum planting made limited progress with 14 percent planted, while 25 percent of soybean crop had been planted.

Hay: Alfalfa and other hay were rated in good to fair condition. First cutting of both alfalfa and other hay continued to make progress for many farmers last week. Many producers were baling their wheat last week. The first cutting of alfalfa was at 46 percent, while other hay was at 16 percent complete, both ahead of normal.

HAY CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending May 4, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	1	4	27	55	13
Other Hay	1	9	39	43	8

Minor Commodities: Watermelons were 61 percent planted Statewide, ahead of the normal of 47 percent. Planting ranged from not yet started in two districts to 74 percent complete in the South Central district.

Pasture: Pasture and range conditions were rated good to fair. The warm and sunny days continued to promote pasture growth but additional rainfall is needed. Weed populations were reported in many pastures across the State. Producers applied fertilizer to warm season pastures in scattered areas.

Livestock: Livestock were rated in mostly good to fair condition. Livestock insect activities were rated as none to moderate with flies and ticks the major problem reported. Cattle auctions reported a slight increase in marketings from last week. The price for feeder steers less than 800 pounds increased from last week and averaged \$83.65 per cwt. The average price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds decreased from last week and averaged \$76.05. per cwt.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending May 4, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	1	4	26	56	13
Pasture & Range	3	12	39	37	9

Oklahoma Crop-Weather Summary
2800 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

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TIME DATED MATERIAL

OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS									
Week Ending May 4, 2003									
Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.
Wheat -					Soybeans -				
Headed	91	64	85	74	Seedbed Prepared	65	60	67	69
Soft Dough	13	n/a	10	10	Planted	25	18	29	27
Oats -					Peanuts -				
Jointing	82	73	77	83	Seedbed Prepared	79	78	84	79
Headed	38	17	28	47	Planted	25	14	11	12
Corn -					Cotton -				
Seedbed Prepared	93	91	90	96	Seedbed Prepared	88	87	89	85
Planted	58	45	84	84	Planted	15	3	17	10
Emerged	35	24	43	36	Alfalfa -				
Sorghum -					1 st Cutting	46	26	25	38
Seedbed Prepared	48	46	54	56	Other Hay -				
Planted	14	12	12	10	1 st Cutting	16	9	9	14
					Watermelons -				
					Planted	61	n/a	38	47

WEATHER FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 4, 2003 - Temperatures ranged from 40 degrees at Kenton on Wednesday, April 30th to 96 degrees at Ringling and Walters on Sunday, May 4th. Precipitation averaged 0.00 in. Panhandle and Central districts to 0.45 in. Northeast and Southeast districts. Soil temperatures averaged 53 degrees at Hooker on Monday, April 28th to 82 degrees at Durant on Thursday, May 1st.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA							
Week Ending May 4, 2003							
Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	March 1, 2003 to May 4, 2003		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
	Degrees			Inches			
Panhandle	78	48	64	0.00	2.35	- 1.57	60
West Central	80	55	68	0.07	3.32	- 2.31	59
Southwest	84	58	71	0.05	2.72	- 2.85	49
North Central	78	53	67	0.06	5.08	- 1.17	81
Central	81	57	70	0.00	4.18	- 3.31	56
South Central	84	62	73	0.01	2.42	- 5.61	30
Northeast	80	58	69	0.45	6.07	- 2.31	72
East Central	82	62	72	0.22	4.89	- 4.29	53
Southeast	82	64	73	0.45	4.17	- 5.62	43